HOW TO WRITE A DBQ PARAGRAPH

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentence** | **Task** |
| 1st | Write a topic sentence – general statement of subject |
| 2nd | First claim or supportive idea – **write a general statement of claim** |
| 3rd | Use **specific** information from the document (**without quotes**) that can be used to support claim. End sentence with a **citation** (Doc 3) |
| 4th – 5th | Sentences of outside information – use specific vocabulary but do not merely list it – make sure you link information to claim and topic of paragraph |
| 6th | *Transition sentence – use topic of first claim and topic of second claim together in sentence* |
| 7th | Write a general statement of second claim |
| 8th | Use **specific** information from the document (**without quotes**) that can be used to support claim. End sentence with a **citation** (Doc 3) |
| 9th-10th | Sentences of outside information – use specific vocabulary but do not merely list it – make sure you link information to claim and topic of paragraph |
| 11th (optional) | *Transition sentence – use topic of second claim and topic of third claim together in sentence* |
| 12th(optional) | Write a general statement of third claim |
| 13th(optional) | Use **specific** information from the document (**without quotes**) that can be used to support claim. End sentence with a **citation** (Doc 3) |
| 14th-15th (optional) | Sentences of outside information – use specific vocabulary but do not merely list it – make sure you link information to claim and topic of paragraph |
| 16th | Concluding sentence – should mirror topic sentence |

TASK: Using two documents and two pieces of outside information, write a paragraph about what Babylonian society must have been like based on Hammurabi’s Code.

Hammurabi’s law code reveals much about Babylonian society. The economy of the Babylonians was based on the domestication of plants and animals and land ownership. The importance of land is evidenced from Hammurabi’s law that states that if a farmer neglects his irrigation system and it causes a flood and loss of property for another farmer, he must compensate the farmer for his loss. (Doc 1) During this time, the Babylonians practiced a mixture of the use of currency and a traditional economy . In such an economy, they would exchange farm goods for the products of artisans or the labor of scribes and priests. *Their economy also relied upon slave labor which is an element of their social stratification.* Babylonian society was heavily stratified and punishments and rights were different based on one’s social rank. Hammurabi’s laws states that if a person strikes a person of a higher rank than he shall receive a public whipping, but that if he is of lower rank than he only needs to pay a coin. (Doc. 2) The Babylonians, much like the Egyptians, had a priest king at the head of their theocracy which would have had the highest social rank, followed by an elite group of priests and scribes. The fact that only the elite would have been literate and able to read the carved basalt stele does make one question whether the lower classes would have known about the laws or the rights they had*. In addition to social inequalities based on rank, social inequalities existed based on gender.* Babylonian women had very few rights. According to Hammurabi’s laws, a man can divorce his wife if he wants to have children, but if a woman leaves her man she could be drowned. (Doc 3). Since Babylonian society was very patriarchal and men ruled, women had very little political say. Women’s sole value seemed to be in having children and therefore the practice of polygamy (multiple marriages) existed to provide for more children. If read carefully, Hammurabi’s law code reveals much about the economy, social structure and gender roles of early Babylonia.